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EXTENSION WORK IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY
EXTENSION SERVICE AND
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS COOPERATING

RECREATION NEWS LETTER

May 1940.

Dear Fellow Workers:

Spring has arrived in Washington, and letters about camp leaders' conferences, camp plans, and vacations are numerous and intriguing.

I have just come in from the Midwest, and the completing year of the posture series that we have been experimenting with in Iowa gave me the rare satisfaction of seeing the results of a consistent health program approached through all the projects for girls. County after county reported demonstrations, talks, and special programs reaching boys, girls, and whole families. Best of all, the examining physicians who see the girls annually noted improvement in their posture habits and their feet.

Doris Compton, the recreation specialist in Kansas, described her method of training leaders for adult choral speaking groups. Lay leaders have been used very effectively. She said that the activity is popular with the women not only because they enjoy the poetry and prose that they read but also because they can make noticeable improvement in their diction and tone.

In several of the camps, especially the conservation camps, casting has become a popular sport. A bamboo pole about 9 feet long, complete with line and reel, is standard equipment. For safety's sake, a canvas bag of sand weighing about 4 ounces replaces the lead weight.

Casting into a bushel basket or whitewashed automobile tire from a line about 100 feet away is absorbing sport. In one camp an open wooden frame about 5 feet high was placed in front of a tire, and the plug had to go through the opening that was about 2 by 3 feet and hit in the tire to score. In this camp, tying flies and making rods from bamboo poles were popular handicrafts.

Mrs. Grace Sloan Overton, whose address is P. O. Box 190, Ann Arbor, Mich., spoke very well on human relationships at the Kentucky Farm and Home Week. She stimulated much discussion and was practical and sound in her subject matter. She is a good person to add to your list of speakers for large meetings.

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Max Exner, who was formerly connected with the Riverside Church in New York, joined the Extension Service staff at Cornell as a music specialist in February.

Mrs. Pearl H. Converse is now a member of the Extension Service staff in Iowa, doing drama and radio work.

Raymond Sydansk, assistant State supervisor for Virginia of the recreation study being carried on by the National Park Service, has compiled a list of agencies which have the principal responsibility for the recreation study in the various States, along with the names of the persons to whom correspondence should be addressed and a list of the agencies which have published their reports. Information from this list may be secured from the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, 1201 Sixteenth Street, NW., Washington, D. C.

Town Hall, Inc., 123 West Forty-third Street, New York, offers to send announcements, bibliographies, and other materials based on its weekly broadcasts to clubs or community groups that wish to carry on discussions of the questions raised by the speakers. This advisory service is under the direction of Byron B. Williams.

The National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York, has established an information exchange through which those who want to exchange natural color slides on recreation subjects for those taken in other communities may get in touch with people of like interest.

The Cooperative Book Club, 118 East Twenty-eighth Street, New York, distributes books at wholesale prices to clubs, study groups, and retail cooperatives in an attempt to stimulate book sales, especially in rural communities. A reserve fund is set aside for contingencies, and the surplus is paid to its members in proportion to the amount of their purchases. This patronage fund for the first year was 15 percent. Reader's Observer, published monthly, with book news and recommendations of the editors, is sent free to members. It is possible to procure phonograph records as well as books, and the cooperative pays postage up to 10 percent of the purchase price. The president of the club is Prof. Henry Pratt Fairchild, New York University.

Teaching Film Custodians, Inc., is a nonprofit membership corporation formed to cooperate with the motion-picture industry in promoting the production and use by schools of educational motion pictures. By arrangement with a number of the leading motion-picture distributors, a number of noncurrent theatrical short subjects have been reviewed by a committee of educators. These films have been made available for distribution to schools at very moderate rentals. They are listed in A Catalog of Films for Classroom Use, published by Teaching Film Custodians, Inc., 25 West Forty-third Street, New York. Approximately 50 sports films and 7 health films are included in the listings.

Ozark Campcrafters, Box 85, Pineville, Mo., sent a small price list that interested me. It is new to me as a source for handicraft supplies.

Magnus Brush and Craft Materials, Inc., Wakefield, Mass., has published a large catalog and price list for this season.

A new etching solution has been developed that does not hurt fingers or clothing. Press, kit, and supplies may be obtained from the Etchcrafters of America, Inc., 879 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Md.

They Say

Education, after all, is simply the fitting of the eye to see, of the hand to work, of the mind to perceive the truth, of the tongue or pen to express it; and it is by the practice of all these that we educate ourselves and become strong, clear-headed men.

--Henry Wallace.

Intelligence plus energy plus good will equals civilization.--- We need "wisdom with people, not book psychology," and "community intelligence." -- "The magic of disinterested good will."

--Harry Overstreet
at the Recreation Congress.

"It's love that makes the world go round,"
Said some old chap long since deceased.
But I might add, and quite as sound,
"It's fun that keeps the axles greased."

--Quoted by Lester Scott
in The Guardian.

Efficiency in production, justice in distribution, success in living, these three: and the greatest of these is success in living.

--H. C. Taylor

To think of authority only in the negative sense represents a limited outlook. Not only children, but many adults also need to feel the strength of the leader at points where they are weak or confused. The distinction, perhaps, should be made more sharply between the agressive, punitive elements in authority which have destructive consequences for personality and authority which is kindly and supportive, leaving the individual free to grow.

--Margaret Svendsen.

From the States

Fist Puppets, Home Recreation IV, H.D. 450, 7 pp. University of California, Berkeley, 1939.

An excellent mimeographed booklet by Fleda E. Smith, describing in detail how to make and dress fist puppets.

Suggestive Material for Programs on the Lyric Poetry of the Bible, by Mrs. Maggie W. Barry, A. and M. College, College Station, Tex.

A brief mimeographed bulletin discussing the background and structure of five lyric psalms and suggesting their use for choric reading.

More Folk Games, by R. W. Kerns, Project 55C, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.

Music and directions for 11 dances from 10 countries.

Refinishing Furniture at Home, by Anne Biebricher and C. C. Ross. Bull. No. 198, Extension Service, Ohio State University, Columbus.

A well-illustrated booklet that makes one anxious to start work.

United States Government Bulletins

The School Auditorium as a Theater, by Alice Barrows and Lee Simonson, Bulletin 1939, No. 4, Office of Education, United States Department of the Interior, 51 pp. Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 10 cents.

An excellent booklet analyzing mistakes and stressing the importance of carefully planning the school for community use. The second part of the booklet contains illustrated suggestions for effective school auditoriums.

Planning for Recreation in Housing, United States Housing Authority, November 1939. (Limited supply.)

A small bulletin giving plans for such community projects as playgrounds for small children, play areas of various types, gardens, and pools. Five case studies in planning recreation sites are included.

Make It of Leather, Trade Promotion Series No. 190, United States Department of Commerce. Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 10 cents.

A practical bulletin on leather work for amateurs. The recommended implements are few and inexpensive. Types of suitable leather, compositions, selection, and method of working are described in the pamphlet; and modeling, embossing, carving, plaiting, braiding, and other processes employed in the production of such goods are discussed. A suggested list of projects for the beginner, such as archery equipment, watch fobs, book ends, cigarette cases, dog harnesses, moccasins, billfolds, desk pads, and lamp shades, together with instructions for their manufacture, is included.

High Schools and Sex Education, by Benjamin C. Gruenberg. United States Public Health Service, Bulletin No. 75, revised, Washington, D. C., 110 pp. 1939.

Dr. Gruenberg redefines education in relation to sex as a phase of character education, which should be developed as an organic part of the entire educational program. The book is planned for the use of high-school pupils not because sex education can or should wait until children are in high school, but because parents and communities becoming more aware of their problems at this age are more ready to accept the idea of planning the curriculum to deal with them. The book is designed for use not only by teachers but by parents or any others working with young persons.

Free Bulletins

Posture from the Ground Up, published by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, 15 pp. 1939. A sound, small booklet.

A Guide in Arts and Crafts, by Marguerite Ickis, Supervisor, Arts and Crafts Division, Recreation Training School, New York, 1939.

A well-illustrated, practical bulletin. Anyone engaged in recreation may secure a copy as long as the supply lasts by writing the Recreation Project, Works Project Administration, 107 Washington Street, New York. It is important in requesting a copy to mention your connection with a recreation organization. The guide contains practical information on arts and crafts projects classified according to introductory crafts, low-cost articles, and advanced craft projects. There is also a section on tools for the craft room.

Your Child Grows Up, by Edgar Doll, John Hancock Life Insurance Company, Boston, Mass. 32 pp.

A simply written booklet on helping a child to attain self-confidence and independence.

Sleep the Restorer, John Hancock Life Insurance Company, Boston, Mass. 24 pp.

An appraisal of the sleeping habits, bed, bedroom, rest, and recreation of adults.

Diversions for the Sick, John Hancock Life Insurance Company, Boston, Mass. 32 pp.

Simple ways to make a person comfortable in bed, as well as clear and concise suggestions of things that patients of various ages enjoy doing.

Rural Recreation Area, W.P.A. Technical Series, Recreation Circular No. 6, Works Projects Administration, Washington, D. C. May 31, 1939.

A suggested plan for a recreation area, giving dimensions of play areas, two sample layouts, and a bibliography on planning recreation facilities.

Recreation Arts and Crafts, W.P.A. Technical Series, Recreation Circular No. 7, Works Progress Administration, Washington, D. C. 31 pp. July 3, 1939.

An "attempt to point out opportunities for the use of leisure time to develop skills in the manipulation of materials as a means of creative self-expression." An interesting and sound approach is used.

Books for $1 or Less

Everyman's Drama, A study of the noncommercial theater in the United States by Jean Carter and Jess Ogden, published by the American Association for Adult Education, New York.

Not a guide to stage production but a brief history of amateur players and their work. The influence of the colleges, the spread of the spell of the theater, the kinds of rural and urban groups served, and the probable trends are included.

Sitting Pretty, by Janet Lane, published by John Wiley and Sons, New York. 32 pp. 1939.

A booklet with clever illustrations that will inspire those who are slender and those who are not. The subtitle is A Guide to Good Posture for the Office Worker, but it will interest the high-school girl and her mother.

Let Me Think, by Harry A. Overstreet, Macmillan Company, New York, 1939.

A good book for discussion leaders.

A Guide to World Affairs, published by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., 1819 Broadway, New York. 64 pp.

An adequate, annotated directory of speakers' bureaus, books, motion pictures, radio, exhibits, songs, and games. Compiled with the idea of helping us inform ourselves on world affairs.

The Church in Rural Life, by David Edgar Lindstrom, Garrard Press, Champaign, Ill. 145 pp. 1940.

A sound presentation of present-day rural conditions and their effect upon the church. Economic and social forces are analyzed and some of the institutions in rural life are discussed in their relationship to each other. Dr. Lindstrom, who is a member of the Extension Service staff in Illinois, bases his book on the results of first-hand study and experience.

How Character Grows, by Grace Loucks Elliott, Womans Press, New York, 1939.

Six discussions dealing with the girl herself, her growth, her relationships to other people, and a study of the development of her ideals.

Leisure, A National Issue, E. C. Lindeman, Association Press, New York. 61 pp. 1939.

A provocative booklet that shows clearly the functions of government in the field of recreation. Dr. Lindeman believes that the right use of leisure and national planning for it will determine the future of democracy. The pamphlet appeals for the use of experience in recreation gained through the W.P.A. in planning future recreation development.

What About Our Town?, by Leonard W. Mayo. Reprinted by Junior Red Cross Journal, American National Red Cross, Washington, D. C. 85 pp. March 1939.

A story showing how a "youth day" inaugurated by high-school students developed into a real community study that resulted in needed changes for civic betterment.

The story describes the organization and carrying out of a community study which obtained results. The techniques applied in learning facts about a community are brought out. The obstacles met serve to show common weaknesses of community studies. The guidance and assistance given the students by school personnel, city officials, and staffs of welfare organizations are described as illustrative of wise leadership. Lists of questions and suggested references for reading are given at the end of each chapter.

Rehearsal for Safety; A Book of Safety Plays, by Fanny Venable Cannon, E. P. Dutton and Company, New York. 132 pp. 1939.

Eight plays based on ways of promoting safety habits for use in elementary and junior high schools. Some of the hazards the plays warn against are rusty nails, littered floors, fire, firearms, escaping gas, playing ball in the street, and getting lost.

America in Action, by Hermann Hagedorn, editor, Dramatics Play Service, Inc., 6 East Thirty-ninth Street, New York. 8 books. 1939.

A series of one-act plays for young people, dealing with freedom and democracy.

The Roosevelt Memorial Association (established in memory of Theodore Roosevelt) cooperating with the Authors' and Dramatists' Guilds of America and the Dramatists' Play Service has rendered material and moral aid in making this series possible and in offering the plays to amateur actors on a non-royalty basis. The plays, by competent authors, illustrate in dramatic form the basic democratic ideals underlying the American conception of life and government. Titles published to date are: Haven of the Spirit, by Merrill Denison; Seeing the Elephant, by Dan Totheroh; Ship Forever Sailing, by Stanley Young; We'd Never Be Happy Otherwise, by E. P. Conkle; Enter Woman, by Olivia Howard Dunbar; Fires at Valley Forge, by Harold Harper; Franklin and the King, by Paul Green; and A Salute to the Fourth, by Elizabeth McFadden.

Gardening; School, Community, and Home, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York. 60 pp. 1939

A practical, well-illustrated book, obviously written from experience. It covers indoor and outdoor gardens, large and small, and includes sample programs, sources of help, and a good bibliography.

Books Costing More Than $1

Edible Wild Plants, by Oliver Perry Medsger, published by the Macmillan Company, New York. 323 pp. illus. 1939.

The plants discussed include edible wild fruits, nuts, seeds and seed pods, salad plants and potherbs, roots, tubers, flavoring plants, sugars and gums, and mushrooms. The book describes each plant, its habits, and use.

One-Reel Scenarios for Amateur Movie-Makers, by Margaret Mayorga, Samuel French Company, New York. 1939.

Living with Others, by Lawrence B. Goodrich, American Book Company, New York. 1939.

An excellent book addressed to those of high-school age. It covers problems of living happily at home, in school, at work, and at play. Case stories and provocative illustrations are used. It is a book young people will be sure to talk about.

Handbook of Nature Study, by Anna Botsford Comstock, Comstock Publishing Company, Ithaca, New York. 937 pp. 1939 edition.

An excellent, huge book with clear text, pictures, poems, and a classified bibliography on teaching nature study--animals, plants, earth, and sky. A treasure mine for camp.

Taking the Stage, by Charlotte Crocker, Victor A. Fields, and Will Broomall, published by Pitman Publishing Company, 2-6 West Forty-fifth Street, New York. 339 pp. 1939.

Taking the stage will be of great interest and value to the amateur actor who takes his acting seriously. The chapters on voice and speech are particularly valuable for all who are doing speech work. The book will serve for study, discussion and laboratory experiment.

The Book of Indoor Hobbies, by Emanuele Stieri, Whittlesey House, New York. 430 pp. 1939.

A practical, well-illustrated book discussing such hobbies as box, roof, and dish gardening; pottery; leather; pewter; soap craft; and etching and bookbinding.

Meet Your Child, by Lowell C. Frost, M.D., Kellaway-Ide Company, Los Angeles. 159 pp. 1938.

The problems of boys and girls in high school and of their parents discussed by the head of the science department in the Beverly Hills High School. Nutrition, health essentials, work and play, the gang, fraternities and sororities, curiosity, truth, privileges, giving and getting, school failures, college, sex, and social adjustment are among the questions considered from the point of view of present-day living conditions and habits.

"In order to meet our children on a common ground of understanding," states Dr. Frost, "it is not that they must grow older in their views but that we must become younger in ours. It is we who must become adaptable."

Motion Pictures

The picture, Living and Learning in a Rural School, is a two-reel 16-millimeter sound film sponsored by Fannie W. Dunn, and Frank W. Cyr, of Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

It is designated to help rural teachers, supervisors, and curriculum builders make the most of the educational opportunities offered by rural environment.

The scene of the film is the three-teacher elementary school at Allamuchy, N. J. The film shows the countryside, typical farm homes, and the environment of the school. Examples of the cooperative daily living and of the teacher-pupil relationship characteristic of this school are followed by scenes of classes which range afield, from the brook on the school grounds to places of local historic interest. The teacher makes use of the resources of the community in gradually developing an activity of absorbing interest to the children - studying and reliving the life of the Algonquin Tribe which once roamed the region.

A printed manual gives further details concerning the school program and the progress of individual pupils, as well as a complete description of the film. For further information, write the Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

Work Pays America; Shock Troops of Disaster; Hands; We Work Again; Rain for the Earth; and Man Against the River are motion pictures describing the activities of the W.P.A. For additional information write to the Division of Information, Work Projects Administration, Washington, D. C.

From the Magazines

The Recreation Leader, by Lester K. Ade; Recreation, vol. 33, No. 4, p. 201, July 1939.

A brief article describing the requirements of a recreation leader. The author recommends a wide experience of living; a capacity to enjoy beauty and to recognize truth; a knowledge of the civic and political life about him; an appreciation of the needs and wants of man; and an understanding of how men and women find for themselves growth in home, neighborhood, and community activities.

The Findings of the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy are presented in the February 1940 Survey Midmonthly, Survey Associates, Inc., 112 East Nineteenth Street, New York, February 1940.

Not a topical report but the dramatic story of what we in America have done and propose to do to the end that our 34 million children under 15 years of age may become an enduring bulwark of democracy in the years ahead.

National camp is the next big event ahead. I hope I shall see many of you here and that your camp and club week programs will go well during these next busy months.

Cordially yours,

Ella Gardner,
Recreation Specialist.

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